



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CERT NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1991

Dec 2016 & Jan 2017

## HB CERT HIGHLIGHTS

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**CLASS 1**

### A Note from Phil Burtis

Thanks to all who came to the November 10, 2016 General Meeting! For those who missed, we had a really neat cake. We will be having our annual holiday event on December 8th. Look for an email to sign up to bring a small appetizer or dessert (we're going light this year). Also a big thank you to Huntington Beach Fire Department Battalion Chief, Mark Daggett, who gave us a really insightful overview of the Fire Department organization and the roles/responsibilities of all those employed by the Fire Department.



### November 10, 2016 CERT Meeting Battalion Chief Mark Daggett, Huntington Beach Fire Dept

By Cynthia Goebel

Our November monthly meeting featured a presentation of the organization of the Huntington Beach Fire Department by Battalion Chief Mark Daggett.



The Fire Department is organized into four Divisions reporting to Fire Chief David Segura: Fire Prevention, Administration, Emergency Response and Marine Safety. Each department has a Division Chief.

Fire Prevention performs annual fire inspections in businesses and multi-family dwellings in the city. The Development Section provides preliminary project reviews for the Planning Department such as emergency vehicle access, fire suppression and notification systems. The Haz Mat program is also in this Division.

The Administration Division includes all billing, the FireMed program, Emergency Management and Homeland Security (Brevyn and CERT are here) and the Central Net Operations Authority (Gothard training facility).

Emergency Response is fire suppression and emergency medical response and is comprised of eight fire stations with 131 safety personnel and 30 ambulance operators within the city. On duty each day are 41 safety personnel and 10 ambulance personnel. (At this point in the presentation, Chief Daggett emphasized when the "big one" occurs, trained CERT personnel will be needed in their neighborhoods and businesses around the city until the city safety personnel can reach all areas of our city.) Also in this division are Training and Emergency Medical Services.

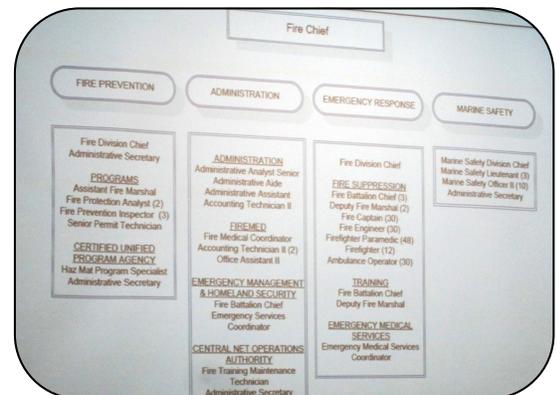
Marine Safety merged into the Fire Department in 2013, with 10 full-time Marine Safety Officers and 65 seasonal lifeguards that patrol from Beach Boulevard to Seapoint Street. They work dawn to dusk 365 days a year. Sunset Beach patrol works from 10am until sunset.

For the 2015 year there were 19,564 total incidents: 429 fire related, 14,942 medical, 154 hazardous materials, 1541 service, 866 other and 1632 out of jurisdiction.

Huntington Beach also participates in mutual aid with neighboring cities.

Chief Daggett also responded to questions and concerns of those in attendance.

He recommended the city website at: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/fire> as an excellent information source.



## **John and Tara Fort Have Retired from the CERT Ham Radio Team**

*By Virginia Petrelis*

Effective November 1, 2016, John and Tara have retired. For 15 plus years John Fort led the CERT Ham Radio Communicators Team, planning activities and teaching classes enabling hundreds of CERT members to earn their ham radio licenses.

Tara initiated the “color team,” ham radio operators who led groups of students to various segments of Saturday classes, making sure the classes moved along on time, while also practicing their radio skills. John and Tara kept the Wednesday CERT radio net check-in team rosters current and sent them out quarterly along with net control operator weekly assignments. Frequently, Tara would call members to remind them, “It’s net tonight!” or “Don’t forget, you’re net control tonight!”

Tara said, “We truly enjoyed being volunteers for the CERT Ham Radio Team and sincerely hope another enthusiast will carry on the work, and pick up where we left off.” “73” (ham radio lingo for best regards) from John and Tara Fort .

Paul LaGreek said, “Thank you for your invaluable contributions and leadership for the past 15+ years. I have enjoyed learning from and working with you over the years in so many capacities. Your legacy is huge and you leave big shoes to fill.”

My husband, Peter, and I attended John’s class, earned our ham radio licenses as a result and became good friends with the Forts. Both John and Tara are fine examples of CERT volunteers, contributing so many hours working quietly behind the scenes. We miss you already, but hope to hear your friendly voices on the net, Tara and John.

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## **Backup Generators in Emergency Preparedness**

*by Raji Shunmugavel*

While volunteering during the power outage at Huntington Gardens senior facility on June 4, 2016, I found generators were very helpful in keeping the seniors and myself feeling safe. This was my motivation to learn more about generators.

Wikipedia states that “a power supply is an electronic device that supplies electric energy to an electrical load. The primary function of a power

supply is to convert one form of electrical energy to another and, as a result, power supplies are sometimes referred to as electric power converters. Some power supplies are discrete, stand-alone devices, others are built into larger devices along with their loads. Examples of the latter include power supplies found in desk-top computers and consumer electronic devices.

Every power supply must obtain the energy it supplies to its load, as well as any energy it consumes while performing that task, from an energy source. Depending on its design, a power supply may obtain energy from various types of energy sources. Included are electrical energy transmission systems, energy storage devices, such as batteries and fuel cells, electromechanical systems such as generators and alternators, solar power converters or another power supply.”

James Piper, P.E. in the July, 2010 issue of Power & Communication states that “faults in the utility’s distribution system, voltage spikes, voltage sags, brown outs and black outs can all cause interference or interruption in service. But for most applications, the most commonly applied means of improving the reliability of a facility’s electrical supply is the backup engine generator. It is important to note that some facilities, such as health care facilities, have specific requirements for power reliability systems that must be followed.

The natural gas, propane, or diesel engine driving an electrical generator is the most widely used alternative source of power in facilities today. Its ability to provide continuous power as long as it has a supply of fuel makes it well-suited for providing both long and short-term backup power.”

During my childhood in my hometown of Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India (translated to “Family God Worship”) I saw generators used to bring electricity, music, enjoyment and safety to family gatherings and places of worship outside of the town where there was no electricity.

Having a home backup generator for power outages, whether for a long or short period of time, is one of the major must-haves for thorough emergency planning. There are many generators on the market but you should consult a qualified electrician or engineer to determine how large a generator you would need for your personal needs.

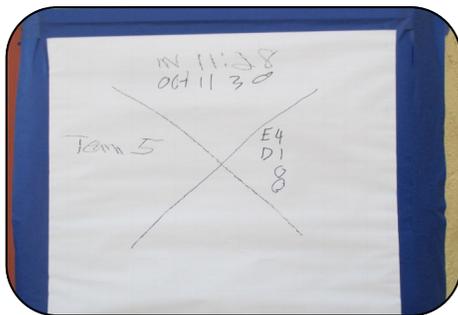
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## NBC/Universal 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Disaster Drill

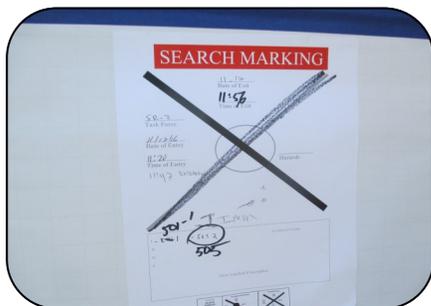
By Phil Burtis

On Thursday, Nov 17, 2016, NBC Universal held their 24<sup>th</sup> annual Disaster Drill and Carol and I attended as observers. Using a TV/film studio as a drill location has several advantages – like having lots of volunteer victims and the ability to stage realistic hazardous areas and really cool moulage. They had approximately 100 victims and around 200 CERT responders. A command post was established, teams formed, a plan developed and operations began. There were really two parts going on: for their existing CERT members it was a chance to practice, for their new CERT volunteers it was the final exam – like our ‘Drill Your Skills’ day except much bigger. They even had fake fires going that smoked up one whole alley so you could barely see. We took many photos, but were asked not to publish any pictures that were sensitive in nature. However we might have a photo show at the January meeting if anyone would like! It was very interesting, especially the triage area.

One thing we found confusing was the wide variety of the search in/out signage you’re supposed to put on buildings at the point of entry. It seems they had several different results based on what people remembered. (I know our last class was a little rough on that as well). So then we were very happy to find that some of their teams had pre-printed starter sheets that tell you what to do. Look at picture *below*.



You’ll see it is partially correct, but also incomplete (e.g. the time: in or out?). There are probably at least five variations of signage I captured. Now look at this picture.



It already has the starting slash and instructions at the bottom as to what to do. Nice. Some thoughts on it:

- A starter sheet is a great idea
- Write big and bold so it’s legible
- Need a signage plan for leaving and returning later

The last item is something I had never considered. They had some cases where they went in, found someone, did NOT do an extraction and decided to leave. Now clearly you can mark up the sheet with all the information and close it out, but what do you do to ensure someone comes back? When they do, do they start a second in/out sheet so you know what’s going on? They had two situations like that and did not have a consistent answer either.

It was an enlightening event and had the full support of the Executive VP of NBC who was there as a VIP observer. It ran about 90 minutes and everyone got a nice lunch afterwards. We submitted our observers’ report with five items we’d noticed – mostly minor.

## Huntington Beach Hospital Health Fair and Free Flu shots November 5, 2016

By Raji Shunmugavel

Members of CERT assisted Huntington Beach Hospital with their health fair (new this year) and free flu shots. Our primary jobs were traffic control and logistics.

The parking lot was transformed into a health fair with pop-up canopies for Flu Shots, Fall Prevention, Nutritional Counseling, Blood Pressure, Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and Water Safety. The Fire Department had one of their vehicles in the area. A highlight of the event was a police car with half a taxi sign combined with a half of a police emblem, indicating if a drunk doesn’t take a taxi home, a police car will take him to jail instead. This captured the attention of the audience.

CERT Communicators were within line of sight of each other so were able to use the Simplex frequency. This was an opportunity to practice their radio skills.

Thanks to volunteers Carol Burtis, Mike Depin, Mimi and Bob Irvin, Linda Vircks, Annette South, Roy Alzua, Brenda Welsh, Debbie Crothers, Richard Batistelli and Raji Shunmugavel who helped with this event.



# NBC/Universal 24th Annual Disaster Drill



# NBC/Universal 24th Annual Disaster Drill (continued)



# HUNTINGTON BEACH HOSPITAL HEALTH FAIR FLU SHOTS NOVEMBER 5, 2016

**Don't Miss Our Health and Wellness Fair**



**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 5, 2016  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Huntington Beach Hospital  
17772 Beach Boulevard  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

**FREE SCREENINGS & ACTIVITIES**

- Blood Pressure
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- dAbi/Peripheral Artery Disease
- Fall Prevention
- Water Safety
- Nutrition Counseling
- HBFD Fire Truck Viewing/Display
- HBPD Police Car & Lifesaving Equipment
- Visit with Members of our Fire & Police Force

For more information, visit [hbhospital.com](http://hbhospital.com)

**FREE FLU SHOTS**

 **Huntington Beach Hospital**  
Member of Prime Healthcare





## ***CERT Holiday Party***

***DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2016***

***TIME: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm***

***PLACE: City Hall Room B8***

## ***Appetizer and Dessert Buffet***

***This is the occasion to make your  
favorite Appetizer or Dessert  
Please bring your dish to serve eight***

***We will have a gift exchange. If you  
wish to participate, please bring a gift  
(\$15 maximum) Please, no white  
elephants.***

***Please RSVP Carol Burtis  
at [Carol.burtis@surfcity.hb.org](mailto:Carol.burtis@surfcity.hb.org) indicating how many  
will be attending in your party***

***No Alcohol allowed***

*Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to provide information and training on disaster preparedness; provide leadership and coordination during an emergency, and assistance to help victims recover from an emergency.

**Upcoming CERT Events & Activities**

- CERT Holiday Party, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, City Hall B8, Thursday December 8, 2016
- CERT General Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM January 12, 2017 in B8
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**CPR Classes**

Fire Med customers can take CPR classes for free and non-FireMed customers can take classes for a fee.

- Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

To enroll in CPR classes, call 800-400-4277 or 714-556-4277. Class location is in the HB area and exact location given at time of enrollment.

*Happy Holidays from the HB CERT Newsletter Staff*

Virginia Petrelis (Editor), Peter Petrelis (Publisher), Anna Pinter, Cynthia Goebel, Art Weiland, Carol Nehls, Bob Zamalin, Rajarajeswari (Raji) Shunmugavel, Brenda Welch, Barbara Scott, Hannah Kilbourne



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

CERT Website: [www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/cert) CERT Contact: [CERT@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:CERT@surfcity-hb.org)  
CERT Message line 714-536-5974 (THIS IS A MESSAGE LINE ONLY!)